



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Fire Activity on Flathead National Forest

There are several active fires on the Flathead National Forest, including the Sun Dog Fire approximately 20 miles northwest of Columbia Falls, the Holland Peak Fire about eight miles east of Condon in the Swan Valley, and several fire-use fires in the Bob Marshal Wilderness Complex.

The Sun Dog Fire, approximately five mile northwest of Moose Lake, about 20 miles northwest of Columbia Falls, was detected late Monday, August 21. It is believed to be a hold-over fire from lightning activity more than a week ago. It is estimated to be 30-60 acres in size. Additional fire fighters and equipment, including a Type II Management Team, are being dispatched to the incident.

Several road and trail closures are being implemented in the Sun Dog Fire area:

- Forest Road #317, Coal Creek Road,
- Forest Road #909, Cyclone Road,
- Forest Road #5241, Moran Creek Road
- Forest Trail #40, Cyclone Lookout Trail
- Forest Trail #14, Coal Ridge Trail
- Forest Trail #2, Moran Creek Trail, and
- Forest Trail #239, Coal Creek Trail.

Hay Creek Road, Forest Road #376, remains open at this time. More closures may be implemented as fire conditions change. Please contact the Hungry Horse and Glacier View District at 387-3800 for updated information.

The Holland Peak Fire, south of Rumble Creek Lake, approximately eight miles east of Condon was detected late Monday, and is believed to be a hold-over fire from recent lightning activity. Aerial

surveys indicate the size of the fire up to 100 acres. Additional resources have been ordered and suppression activities are taking place. For more information about the Holland Peak Fire contact the Swan Lake District at 837-7500.

The Flathead National Forest also has thirteen fire-use fires in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Wildland fire use is the management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific management objectives.

The largest of the fire-use fires is the Jenny Creek Fire at approximately 125 acres. It is located below Youngs Mountain, north of Youngs Pass in the South Fork Flathead River drainage.

The Blackfoot Divide Trail #278 is closed from Youngs Pass north eight miles to Hahn Creek Pass, along the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex boundary. For more information about the fire-use fires in the wilderness complex, visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead or call the Spotted Bear District at 758-5376.

Stage I Fire Restrictions continue for Northwest Montana, including all lands within Flathead and Lincoln Counties, plus that portion of Lake County outside the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Lands, plus all lands administered by the Kootenai National Forest, Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park. These administrative boundaries include portions of Sanders County, west of Whitepine, Glacier, Missoula and Powell Counties.

Campfires are restricted to developed or improved sites. Smoking is only allowed in a vehicle, building or in an area cleared of flammable materials in a three-foot diameter around the smoker. Fireworks are prohibited.

Anyone causing a wildfire can be held financially responsible for damages and the cost of putting out that fire.

For more information, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/> or contact a local Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation or National Park Service Office or your local fire department Stage I Fire Restrictions are in effect across Northwest Montana.

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